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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 10 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement made on 2 June 1996 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, concerning the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/51/50.

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Annex

Statement issued on 2 June 1996 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, concerning the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Today, 2 June 1996, marks the completion of the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This was made possible by close cooperation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Although at times difficult political, economic and technical problems had to be solved, common sense and the two sides' commitment to their international obligations always won out. Thus, the relevant provisions of the Lisbon Protocol have been carried out, and Ukraine's decision to become a non-nuclear-weapon State has become a reality.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the diplomats, Russian servicemen, and specialists and staff of the various ministries and departments who took part in this operation, the scale and complexity of which is without precedent. At all stages of the operation, the safe keeping and security of the nuclear warheads were guaranteed, beginning with their removal from the delivery vehicles, their transport and, finally, their dismantlement at enterprises of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy.

A positive aspect of this operation was the cooperation with the United States of America under the Tripartite Agreements of 14 January 1994 between the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Ukraine.

The Russian Federation is prepared to continue to deepen its cooperation with Ukraine in matters of security with a view to strengthening peace for the benefit of the fraternal peoples of the two countries.